Waldenbooks wimps out

It is a pathetic day indeed when the Ayatollah Khomeini dictates what we in Frederick can read, and that day, incredibly enough, is here. Waldenbooks has announced that it is removing copies of Salman Rushdie's novel, "The Satanic Verses," from its stores.

All it takes for this phenomenal event to occur is for hordes of people who have not read the book to attack and destroy American property abroad and for an Iranian despot, presiding over one of the most repressive and violent regimes in this world today (under the guise of religion), to offer a reward to any in the hordes who wish to spread violence and murder abroad.

Shall we Americans be denied the right to read a work of fiction because violent people half a world away demand it? Outrageous!

The owners of Waldenbooks may be this easily intimidated, but I'll bet many Americans are not. Other bookstores in this country better uphold the American principle of freedom of speech. Let us buy books at those stores; Waldenbooks can open a shop in Teheran.

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